GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4012
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
FARMERS BENEFITED FROM SDF
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugarcane growing farmers have also been benefited from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF); and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of sugarcane farmers benefited from the said fund during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): As per SDF Act and Rules, SDF loans are, inter-alia, given for sugarcane development to sugar factories for various purposes including rearing of seed nursery, incentive to cultivators to switch over to improved varieties of cane, ratoon management, irrigation schemes etc. Some of the loan is also passed on to the farmers at a maximum interest rate of 4% per annum. Since this leads to sugarcane development, it benefits the farmers with seed availability, better farm practices, improved yield of cane etc. As the sugarcane farmers are the indirect beneficiaries, no information about their numbers is maintained.